

The hard times just will not soften—at least, not while the Woody-Bryans are in power.

The allies no longer look forward to beating Germany, they only speak of "starving" her out.

The present session of the Legislature is going to cost the taxpayers of Missouri \$280,000. Goldbricked again!

Democratic rule comes high in more ways than one, but its expensiveness is particularly noticeable when the appropriation figures are displayed.

Do you get "hep" to the fact that the Legislature up at Jeff City is spending \$1500 a day for help that has so far not assisted the legislators in getting anything done.

The country has managed to survive two years of Democratic rule with fortitude, but we fear it will be taxed to the utmost to withstand the two years of that rule yet to come.

Hidden away among the various appropriations being made by the Legislature we see the cheerful features of an old familiar friend—"To pay interest on school certificates of indebtedness, \$499,000." Missouri with out a state debt! Yah!

It appears now that the Legislature will not appropriate that ten or fifteen thousand dollars for Governor Major's trip to the San Francisco Exposition. A little consistent and vigorous kicking from the people will bring even a legislature to its sense of duty.

Even Speaker Clark has dreams, idle dreams, it seems. He says that there is such a wave of prosperity on the way in the United States that by the time the Fourth of July comes around again every jobless man in the country will have his job. That wave will have to go some if it is going to get here in time to meet the Speaker's prediction.

We may well ask ourselves these days, what is a fort? In the operations against fortified positions in the European war it has been pretty well demonstrated that the most modern fortifications cannot stand up against the projectiles fired against it, and it seems a waste of money to go on building them. The soldier in the trench is still the best defense.

While the Journal admits its partisanship in behalf of the G. O. P., we do not carry it so far as to deny the Democratic party the credit of reviving an industry when such revival occurs under a Democratic administration. To the Democratic party belongs the credit of the present activity in the bank robbing industry.

We are in receipt of a column-long article in stereotype, boosting Col. Fred D. Gardner's State land bank scheme, by which he plans to make it easier and cheaper for farmers to borrow money. Col. Gardner is booming himself for Governor in 1916 on this idea. We don't know just what merit the land bank plan has, it may be good or it may be bad; but as long as it is apparently being made a medium for the attainment of Col. Gardner's political aspirations, we are not ready to give it free space. We hardly believe he farmers need a land bank, they can borrow money at most any bank as easily and as cheaply as the rest of us, as long as they have adequate security to offer.

The Sixty-third Congress has come to an end, which may be regarded by the people generally as a matter for congratulation. In the matter of spending the revenues it has been fully as extravagant as any preceding Congress, and its appropriations are several hundred million dollars in excess of the appropriations of the last Congress controlled by the Republicans, which the

Democrats pictured as riotous in its freedom with the revenues, and called upon the people in 1910 to turn the rascals out. If the Republicans were guilty of rascality when they were spending the money and merited a rebuke at the polls on that account, the Democrats certainly have something coming to them in 1916. The appropriations of the Sixty-third Congress aggregate \$1,120,000,000.

On March 1st the federal government inaugurated national prohibition in the sale of habit-forming drugs. Only under the strictest regulation may such drugs now be sold, and any infraction of this prohibitory law will be followed by severe punishment. That this law is going to prove effective is indicated by the way the "dope fiends" are seeking the hospitals for treatment to free them from the habit, since it can no longer be satisfied by feeding it on what it craves. This is one instance where the government steps in between the individual and his personal privilege and says, thou shalt not. May we not expect a stirring editorial from the Ironton Register on this abuse of authority? The drug habit never menaced social welfare in anything like the degree that it is menaced by the liquor habit, fostered and encouraged by the free sale of habit-forming booze; but men who regard the drug habit with horror and approve its restraint by prohibitory laws, look with complacency upon the greater evil resulting from the sale of liquor. Why is it?

It appears the Legislature will raise the passenger fare maximum to two and a half cents per mile. To this increase there is a pretty general assent on part of the public, which indicates that the public is not so seriously antagonistic to the railroads as is frequently intimated. The half cent increase, if it is established, means that the traveling public will receive 20 cents less transportation for every dollar it spends in railroad fares. On the other hand it will mean that the railroads will be given an arbitrary raise of twenty per cent in their passenger revenue for the same service they are now performing for two cents. Any business man or intelligent farmer will quickly conceive what this means. Take the merchant, for instance, who may be guiding his business precariously clear of the rocks of failure in these days of trade depression, it would be a happy outcome of his troubles if he could get a law which would increase his receipts 20 per cent without any advance in cost. And the farmer, how would he like a law that would add 20 cents to every dollar's worth of his products brought to market. The railroads want a three-cent maximum, but we imagine they will be quite happy with the two and a half-cent rate—when they get it.

Prosperity for the Sheriff.

A Fredericktown paper is carrying at the present time, 25 sheriff's sales of Madison County property. The editor of that paper writes columns telling how prosperous times are and that the Republicans are a lot of calamity howlers. We believe editors who try to put over such rank inconsistencies should be cow kicked within an inch of their lives.—Bonne Terre Register.

Some Salt.

The volume of the saline matter in the ocean is somewhat more than 265,956,133,600,000 cubic feet, according to the United States Geological Survey, or enough to cover the entire surface of the United States, excluding Alaska, 8,448 feet deep.

HAVE YOUR JOB PRINTING DONE AT THE JOURNAL OFFICE.

The Early Spring Dragging.

If our readers really want good roads next summer, they must not forget the early spring dragging. In the southern part of our territory, the time to do this will have come by the time this article reaches their eye. Down in that section, and sometimes even in the central portion of our territory, the roads begin to get muddy for a few days along in February and then freeze up again. If the farmer will get out his drag then, and drag his roads so that they will freeze up smooth, he will have fairly good roads till spring. At the time the frost is out the roads should be dragged after every rain. Farmers don't realize the value of the drag. If it cost twenty-five or fifty dollars, and was painted up, and somebody could make money by going around selling drags, it would be better. For the farmer would then think he must use it to get his money out of it. Its cheapness and simplicity work against it. In the years' time, when we have had experience, we will find that the drag is the easiest and best method of road maintenance after the road has been properly located, graded, drained and bridges and culverts put in. The drags in a township are worth many times as much as the expensive machinery, in the way of graders, which the township usually buys.

If you really want a good road this summer, don't forget this winter and early spring dragging. If you dragged your roads smooth last fall after the last rain, so that they froze up smooth, you have had good roads all winter. If not, you have smoothed them down by bumping over them, and then smoothed them only in the tracks, torturing your wife and children, and yourself simply because you would not follow our advice.

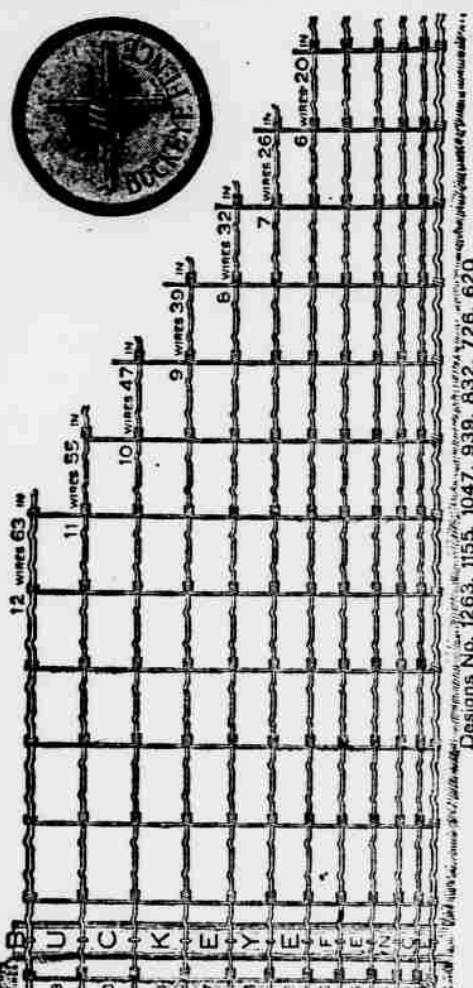
There will always be trouble about getting the township trustees to drag the roads at the proper time. Surely we shall soon reach a time when every farmer will take pride in seeing the road in front of his farm kept smooth and hard, whether he is paid for it or not. The best work we get done in this world, the work that counts for the most, is that which a man does for love of it, and because of his own self respect, rather than for the money he may make. This is true of about every thing we do. The best work is work that can not be paid for in cash, but is the outward expression of the inward life of the man.

Let's get over the idea that we must do only what we are paid for doing, and that when we are paid for doing it, it is all right to do less work for the same money for the township or county than we would do for a neighbor or employer. Let's develop a loyalty to ourselves, to our farms, to the township, to the state, that will lead us to do things because they should be done, and not for the gain we get out of it, not primarily for the pay.

Ruskin has a notable passage in which he describes the difference between two kinds of men, one kind with whom the work is first, the fee second, and the other, the fee first and the work second. The passage is this: "Fee first, and you are the servant of the fiend of fiends, whose service is perfect bondage. Work first, and you are the servant of the King of kings, whose service is perfect freedom." Try this on dragging your road.—Wallace's Farmer.

We Need "Home Guards."

We suggest to the Missouri Legislature that four good men be appointed in each county in the state, to be known as the "Home Guards," at a "very modest salary," say about \$2,500 each, their duties being to see that the English sparrows do not carry off the court house. There are only 114 court houses in the state, and the people could very easily pay the bill, and unless



Quality of Steel.—The steel used in the construction of BUCKEYE fence is the very best that can be made. Each operation, from the ore to the wire, is under direct supervision of experts, thus insuring the very best.

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Buckeye Square Mesh Field and Stock Fence.

After going carefully over the merits and demerits of the square mesh field fence, we agree with a majority of the fence experts that, taking everything into consideration, BUCKEYE fence is the logical fence. The great improvement over the methods of other manufacturers of this style of fence, the deep crimp in the lateral wire, into which the stay wire is wrapped, and which holds the stay wire rigidly in place and still does not interfere with the hinged joints in any way, are the distinctive features of the BUCKEYE square mesh. BUCKEYE fences are equipped with tension crimps, which take care of the expansion and contraction of the wire due to the different weather conditions. On six and twelve inch stay fences are placed, respectively, one and two tension crimps between the stays. This crimp forms a half circle, thus giving the greatest tension.

BUCKEYE fence with the STAY that is bound to stay is

SOLD BY EDMOND CASEY
LUMBER, HARDWARE AND FARM IMPLEMENTS

told, would not know but what the money was going into the school treasury to educate the boys and girls of the state. It would afford positions for four good party workers in each county, and would be worth as much to the people in the state as the proposed law to appoint ten inspectors to look at the hay and straw of the state. Yes, and here are a number of officers in the state to day, drawing handsome salaries, that are not doing any more for the state than the "Home Guards" would do. We have a number of "mighty good party workers" who are without jobs, and unless they can secure some such positions, they will be left to—well they may actually suffer, because they are without any other means of support than their ability to manipulate the elections.

It might be a pretty good idea to write your representatives in the Legislature on the subject.—Arcadia Valley Enterprise.

Reading the Exchanges.

Every craft has its crosses. One of the sore afflictions of the newspaper business is found in the fact that people generally think it's no work to get out a paper. One of the hardest jobs every editor does, though generally the pleasantest, is to read his exchanges. But it is hard work and must be done. For the editor who gets a day or two "back" in his exchanges never catches up. And one thing that makes him maddest, though he will look up and greet the stranger with a smile who does it, is for a man to come in saying: "Well, I saw you sitting there doing nothing but reading, so I thought I'd just come in and pass the time of day with you!"

Remember this, you who would have business with the editor, it's all right to come in when he's reading or writing or editing copy, but don't get in

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